

HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING IN FLAMINGO HEIGHTS SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

Opened with Flag Salute at 3:00 pm

Present were Maryan Barkley, Phyllis Burns, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Elizabeth Karman, Earlene McCloskey, Mike McGrath, Betty Munson, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Carl Schmitt, Joyce Wheeler

Guests: Carl Gorham, Jan Kirkpatrick, Joe Kirkpatrick, J. Larry Coulombe, Mary Coulombe, William A. Davis, Janea Jackson (MCAGCC, G-5), Jessica Napoli (Marstel-Day/MCAGCC, G-5), Duane D. Lisiewski (BDVWA), Marina West (BDVWA), Gerry Kay, Martha Oswalt, Rebecca Unger (Hi-Desert Star)

Delegate List was approved with no changes

Agenda was approved

Minutes of August meeting approved by e-mail.

Treasurer's report: Earlene McCloskey.

Beginning balance 5,908.16; Income 450.12; Expenses 127.31; Balance 6,203.97

Another donation via PayPal was received; plus donations from JVIA and YMIA of \$100 ea.

#### 1. Guest Comments

Janea Jackson thanked us for our support of the basketball tournament which raised \$4,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Yucca Valley.

Carl Gorham, a veteran of WWII, described the efforts he had made to achieve recognition for the veterans of the Vietnam War, which have resulted in a bill authored by Assemblyman Paul Cook, to be signed on Friday, Sept. 25, by Gov. Schwarzenegger at the Marine Base in Twentynine Palms. This bill establishes March 30 as the annual Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day in California. We were invited to attend and to pass the word.

The Council unanimously approved writing a letter of commendation to Paul Cook.

Carl Gorham went on to comment that November 11 is Veterans Day, a national observance unchanged since WW1; that any action of any agency to change the observance of that day to suit their needs and purposes is perceived as a slap in the face of all veterans.

Duane Lisiewski said that he was the only director of the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency to vote against the shift of the observance to Friday to give the Agency staff a 3-day weekend.

John Burkhart said the Agency did not change the observance.

Marina West, General Manager of the Water Agency, said the Directors had voted to change the office closure for the 2009 Veterans Day holiday to Friday, November 13; that she did not understand this would be so controversial and would change it back. When questioned, she amended that to say she would have it on the agenda for the next meeting for the Directors to vote on.

Larry Coulombe said there was hostility toward the Water Agency.

Other guests brought up the long historic precedent nationally celebrating on the Eleventh Minute of Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day, and the lack of education of young people on the history of the wars fought for our country.

## 2. Committee Reports

-The Audit Committee reported that the accounting for our previous fiscal year was in perfect order. The Committee was dissolved until next June, when it will be called to do this year's audit. Earlene was commended for her good work.

-Sphere of Influence committee chairman Elizabeth Karman reported that on Sept. 1 the Town of Yucca Valley had withdrawn its request to LAFCO to extend its Sphere of Influence over Yucca Mesa. Elizabeth is waiting for written communication. She stated however that Kathleen McDonald had told her there was a possibility LAFCO may trump the town and proceed. She thinks we will need to go to the LAFCO hearing which will be no sooner than Jan 10. The SOI Committee will remain open until this is resolved.

LAFCO must continue with the Yucca Valley Municipal Service Review by law.

- Public Outreach Committee. Betty Munson reported the HVCC brochure was printed in a small quantity, enough to be able to hand out about 40 at the YMIA Country Faire. The next event for which the brochure will be needed is the Christmas party. Jim Harvey will print about 100 to tide us over till then. Comparative costs were discussed, on various paper weights, and quantity printing will be discussed at the next meeting.

All delegates present who had requested business cards receive 20 each.

The HVCC Web site still lacks the community profiles for Landers and Yucca Mesa. Mike McGrath said the Board is to supply YMIA wording, but he can supply a photo, also take one of Landers building if needed.

Signage identifying the Homestead Valley and the various communities was brought up. Not CalTrans signs. Wording to be something like: Welcome to the Homestead Valley Community of Landers. Mike McGrath to research.

Fund Raising/Events: Jim Harvey handed Earlene \$177 raised at the HVCC Desert Plant Sale at the Country Faire. Earlene herself is adding \$5 for plants she bought after the event. Jim thanked Cathy Janowicz for her display help and telling the HVCC story to visitors to the table, to Rick Sayers for his help, to Jim Hanley for trucking the plants from Johnson Valley, to Nancy Sammons for her cactus garden donations.

The Christmas Party at Landers, Saturday, Dec. 19, is planned to begin as an event for kids, guests are requested to bring a gift for a boy or girl as price for admission. Ken Stermetz will handle supplying the liquor, and he has a band who will donate their time. Neil Derry and Alan Rasmussen will be attending. Each community is asked to help participate in supplying food. Details to be discussed at the October meeting.

A suggestion for a variation of the Poker Run event was brought up. Cards would be available at already scheduled events of each community. To play you would attend a regular Potluck, breakfast, etc. This way people would be acquainted with all the associations, yet we would not have to organize a special event as a fundraiser. Details to be discussed next month.

A letter of thanks for all donations is to be drafted ASAP.

-Community Services/Improvements/Communications: Notes on a meeting this committee had with Alan Rasmussen were supplied in the agenda packet for today's Council meeting. The Hwy 247 Project, the CalAware project and the Water Hauling/Building Permits issue were discussed at length. Rick Sayers told us about the Joshua Tree Municipal Action Committee meeting he had attended, where he passed on information to Dot Valentine about our proposed CalAware workshops. She approved of it, asked to schedule it for Monday or Tuesday if possible, and said Joshua Tree Community Center would be available for the event if desired.

Jim Harvey said in his meeting with Andy Takata he was told Yucca Valley might offer a grant of \$500-1000 for the event and that the Yucca Room could be used.

The Sportsmans Club, radio station and newspaper have also been suggested as possible sponsors. Alan Rasmussen said the latest inquiry into water hauling has not had any different results than the last one.

3. President's Report: Issues were sent by Ed Cronin to be addressed to Alan.

-Can Alan communicate with Burrtec about the trash escaping from trucks on their way to the county dump. This problem is widespread, others have notice the trucks open with trash blowing out into the desert.

-Can county road maintenance be stepped up at the intersections near the dump where heavy trucks are causing damage.

-Can the county urge the use of magnets to pick up metal hazards as is done at other dumps to prevent flat tires.

Ed requested we all spread the word to please cover your trash on the way to the dump.

We will not know if we are selected to participate in the Census2010 promotion until October.

Jim brought up the cattle crossing signs that recently appeared on Hwy. 247. Rebecca Unger stated she asked the person in charge of the road work and was told if there is a sticker on the back of the sign it can be traced to whomever had the signs erected. She will pursue the matter. Since there are very few cattle in the area, we are curious as to the origin of the signs in this day of economic hard times.

Alan Rasmussen passed on a query, do we recognize the name Goat Mountain Community Association. It was vaguely recalled by some delegates as organized by a Grange Insurance Agent, but not known to exist today.

Alan also made the suggestion attendees at HVCC and other public meetings should behave in a professional manner, show respect to speakers and refrain from side comments, interruptions and whispering. We agreed.

4. Items for the next agenda: possible revival of the local Chamber of Commerce

Meeting adjourned 5:15

Betty Munson, Secretary